

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2797**

JOSEPH E. KERNAN
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For immediate release

Monday, Dec. 13, 2004

***Kernan announces electronic job search tools
available to all Hoosiers through new ePortfolio***

Gov. Joe Kernan today announced the **ePortfolio Project**, a new online career development and job search tool that builds on the success of the current Indiana@Work initiative.

“Since we launched Indiana@Work in January, we’ve seen tremendous interest in both the skills profiling and assessment components of the program from the business community and the Hoosier workforce,” Kernan said. “With the ePortfolio Project, individual workers now can use the information gathered from nearly 30,000 individual skills assessments to assist them in finding jobs that match their skills.”

Developed and designed by Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis’ CyberLab, Indiana@Work’s ePortfolio Project (www.in.eportfolio.us) is a free, Internet-based system that offers individuals and companies lifelong access to a Web site that assists in career and business development.

Individuals can create and post resumes, state-certified credentials, degrees and work samples. Then, through the computer system, participants will be automatically matched with available jobs. Businesses also can use the ePortfolio system to attract potential employees or to verify employment and academic histories.

“This is truly a groundbreaking effort; no other state has done anything close to this level,” said Dr. Ali Jafari, who directs the IUPUI’ CyberLab and is the architect of the ePortfolio Management System.

“In a way it offers ‘smart services’ similar to those found on sites like Amazon.com, where when you buy a book, the site then recommends other books that might be of interest to you based on your current and past purchases,” Jafari explained. “The Indiana@Work ePortfolio system can inform job candidates about current jobs in which others with similar work and educational experience have succeeded.”

Jafari said the system will analyze an individual’s skills and cross check them with the database to find jobs that are suited to them. When that match occurs, all the user has to do is hit a button and his or her ePortfolio, with optional cover letter and customized resume, will be sent to that employer. The system works in the same manner for companies looking for prospective employees.

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As the system matures, a wide range of other information will be automatically placed into an individual's ePortfolio. For example, a person's certified college transcript from an Indiana college or university will be able to be electronically stored in his or her ePortfolio, allowing prospective employers to have immediate access to verifiable information.

"There is really limitless potential with ePortfolios," said Alan Degner, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "The system is totally controlled by the user – so everything that is placed on the site, and who sees it, is up to the individual. It is extremely easy to use. It only takes about 10 minutes to get started.

"An added benefit is that the system can automatically recommend classes, seminars or other training opportunities via the ePortfolio. Not only is the system a way to find your next job, but also a way to connect to lifelong learning opportunities and career advancement in Indiana," added Degner.

Since Kernan announced Indiana@Work in his State of the State address last January, the joint effort between DWD and the Indiana Department of Commerce has enrolled 168 Hoosier businesses and has committed to assessing the skill levels of more than 29,600 individual workers. Partnering with employers, the state has also committed to profile 691 different occupational categories and anticipates placing more than 5,000 Hoosiers in new jobs in the next two years.

The centerpiece of Indiana@Work is the WorkKeys® skills assessments, a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

Job profiling, the employer element of WorkKeys®, helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

After participating in the job profiling and skills assessment portion of Indiana@Work, employers may apply for grants through Commerce to address any skill gaps. Commerce, which contributes \$5 million annually to the program, can reimburse a company for up to 75 percent of its training costs associated with Indiana@Work.

DWD offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs, and closures and operates the a statewide job placement service

For more information on Indiana@Work or other DWD programs, call 1-800-465-4616 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

*Reporters' contacts: Governor's Office, Jonathan Swain or Lisa Sirkin, 317-232-4578
DWD, Jeff Harris, 317-232-3396, or Angie Nussmeyer, 317-233-5050*